

VZCZCXRO4716

PP RUEHHM RUEHLN RUEHMA RUEHPB RUEHPOD

DE RUEHKO #0246 0300916

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1367

INFO RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE

RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 4330

RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI 1060

RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1400

RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 5802

RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 4436

RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 8198

RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 9469

RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 6410

RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 8570

RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHINGTON DC

RUEAIIIA/CIA WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 000246

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AIAG AMBASSADOR LANGE

DEPT FOR OES/IHA COMELLA

DEPT FOR EAP/J

USDA PASS TO APHIS

HHS PASS TO CDC

HHS FOR OGHA STEIGER AND HICKEY

DEPT PASS TO AID/GH/HIDN DENNIS CARROLL

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: TBIO KFLU KSTH ECON PREL SOCI CASC JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN AVIAN INFLUENZA UPDATE

REF: A. 05 STATE 153802

1B. 07 TOKYO 4579 AND PREVIOUS

1C. 06 TOKYO 2135

11. No human or animal outbreaks of H5N1 Avian Influenza (AI) were reported in Japan during the period September 27, 2007 to January 30, 2008.

MHLW: No action in response to 100th Indonesian AI death

12. Responding to news reports of the 100th fatality from avian influenza in Indonesia, officials at the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) told emboffs January 30 that the GOJ has no plans to take specific action. The MHLW officials said the latest death is not due to a sudden outbreak and the number of fatalities has been increasing only gradually.

GOJ creates team for handling potential pandemic influenza

13. Japan's ruling parties have established a team to discuss countermeasures for pandemic influenza. The team met for the first time January 29 and is headed by Jiro Kawasaki of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) who served as Minister of MHLW under Prime Minister Koizumi. The team will review the status of vaccine production and virus containment systems, including the dispatch of the Japan Self Defense Force in the case of an outbreak. The team will incorporate AI countermeasures into the budget plan in June. The team also plans to visit Indonesia. According to MHLW, however, the visit is not related to the reports of Indonesia's 100th AI human fatality.

MHLW to issue caution on the use of Relenza and Symmetrel

¶4. The MHLW announced January 29 it has instructed pharmaceutical companies to revise warning labels for anti-viral drugs Relenza and Symmetrel sold in Japan. The new labels warn that the use of the drugs may cause abnormal behavior in patients under 20 years old, although causal links between the drugs and abnormal behavior are not clear.

SCHIEFFER